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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) A computer-based method of processing a computer graphics illustration that includes one or more pieces of artwork, the method comprising:  
mapping outlines of at least one of the pieces of artwork onto a grid of cells, a piece of artwork having one outline;  
determining the total number of outlines of pieces of artwork that map to a cell of the grid;  
identifying the cell as a complex region based on the total number of outlines that map to the cell; and  
identifying pieces of artwork to include in an illustration flattening process based on the identification of the complex region.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the illustration flattening process comprises a process for producing a planar map of the illustration.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein identifying artwork comprises excluding artwork classified as entirely inside the complex region.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein mapping comprises drawing the outlines using a rasterization engine function.

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6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein identifying comprises comparing the total number of outlines of pieces of artwork that map to the cell with a threshold.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the threshold comprises a threshold based on user input.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the threshold comprises a dynamically determined threshold.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the illustration has a first associated resolution and the grid has a second resolution, the second resolution being less than the first resolution.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the determining comprises determining using a rasterization engine function.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising classifying at least one of the pieces of artwork based on the intersection of the piece of artwork with the complex region.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein classifying comprises identifying the piece of artwork as being completely inside the complex region.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein classifying comprises identifying the piece of artwork as being completely outside the complex region.

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14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein classifying comprises identifying the piece of artwork as being partially inside the complex region.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The computer program of claim 17, further comprising instructions to:  
exclude pieces of artwork that map entirely inside the complex region.

17. (Currently Presented) A computer program product, tangibly stored on machine-readable medium, for processing a computer graphics illustration having pieces of artwork, the product comprising instructions operable to cause a processor to:

map outlines of at least one of the pieces of artwork onto a grid of cells, a piece of artwork having one outline;  
determine the total number of outlines of pieces of artwork that map to a cell of the grid;  
identify the cell as a complex region based on the total number of outlines that map to the cell; and  
exclude, based on the identifying of the cell as a complex region, pieces of artwork from an illustration flattening process.

18. (Previously Presented) The product of claim 17, wherein:  
the illustration flattening process includes a process for producing a planar map of the illustration.

19. (Previously Presented) The product of claim 17, wherein the instructions to identify a cell as complex includes instructions to:  
compare the total number of outlines of pieces of artwork that map to the cell with a threshold.

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20. (Previously Presented) The product of claim 17, wherein the instructions to compare the total number of outlines of pieces of artwork that map to the cell with a threshold includes instructions to:

dynamically determine the threshold.

21. (Previously Presented) The product of claim 17, wherein the instructions to compare the total number of outlines of pieces of artwork that map to the cell with a threshold includes instructions to:

determine the threshold based on user input.

22. (Previously Presented) The product of claim 17, wherein the instructions to map includes instructions to:

draw outlines using a rasterization engine.

23. (Previously Presented) The product of claim 17, wherein the instructions to determine includes instructions to:

use fast rasterization functions to determine the number of outlines that map to a cell.

24. (Previously Presented) The product of claim 17, further comprising instructions to:

classify a piece of artwork based on an intersection of the piece of artwork with the complex region.

25. (Previously Presented) The product of claim 24, wherein instructions to classify a piece of art work includes instructions to:

determine whether the outline of the piece of artwork is mapped completely inside the complex region.

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26. (Previously Presented) The product of claim 24, wherein instructions to classify a piece of art work includes instructions to:

determine whether the outline of the piece of artwork is mapped partially inside the complex region.

27. (Previously Presented) The product of claim 24, wherein instructions to classify a piece of art work includes instructions to:

determine whether the outline of the piece of artwork is mapped completely outside the complex region.

28. (Previously Presented) The product of claim 17, wherein:

the illustration has a first associated resolution and the grid has a second resolution, the second resolution being less than the first resolution.